

**MINUTES OF THE MARINE ADVISORY BOARD  
100 NORTH ANDREWS AVENUE  
COMMISSION CHAMBERS – FIRST FLOOR  
FORT LAUDERDALE, FLORIDA  
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 1, 2015 – 6:00 P.M.**

<b><u>Board Members</u></b>	<b>Attendance</b>	<b>Cumulative Attendance May 2015 - April 2016</b>	
		<b><u>Present</u></b>	<b><u>Absent</u></b>
James Harrison, Chair	P	3	2
Frank Herhold, Vice Chair	P	5	0
F. St. George Guardabassi	P	4	1
Jim Welch	P	4	1
Robert Dean	P	5	0
John Holmes	A	2	3
Joseph Maus	P	4	1
Joe Cain	P	4	1
Zane Brisson	A	3	2
Erik Johnson	P	4	1
Jack Newton	P	3	2
Jimi Batchelor	P	4	1
Cliff Berry II	P	4	0
Grant Henderson	P	4	0
Bill Walker	P	2	0

As of this date, there are 15 appointed members to the Board, which means 8 would constitute a quorum.

**Staff**

Andrew Cuba, Manager of Marine Facilities  
Jonathan Luscomb, Supervisor of Marine Facilities  
Sergeant Todd Mills, Marine Police Staff  
Enrique Sanchez, Deputy Director, Department of Parks and Recreation  
Brigitte Chiappetta, Recording Secretary, Prototype, Inc.

**Communications to City Commission**

None.

**I. Call to Order / Roll Call**

Chair Harrison called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and roll was called.

**II. Approval of Minutes – September 3, 2015**

**Motion** made by Mr. Guardabassi, seconded by Vice Chair Herhold, to approve. In a voice vote, the **motion** passed unanimously.

### **III. Statement of Quorum**

It was noted a quorum was present at the meeting.

### **IV. Waterway Crime & Boating Safety Report**

Sergeant Todd Mills of Marine Police Staff reported that during the month of September, there were 15 miscellaneous incidents, seven minor marine accidents, six citations, 116 safety checks, and 110 warnings. Thefts included three kayaks, a trailer, and personal watercraft in conjunction with the theft of a truck. Other incidents include a small fire started by lightning, a marine rescue, a drowning, two fuel leaks, and one suspicious bag thrown from a vessel.

Mr. Welch requested clarification of how warnings are issued. Sgt. Mills explained that these are actual written warnings which provide a record in the event that a behavior or activity recurs; however, the Marine Unit does not yet have laptops with which to access the Police Department's paperless system. This would allow for more accurate tracking of warnings. Most written warnings are issued for idle speed or slow speed violations.

Sgt. Mills continued that Fort Lauderdale International Boat Show patrols will begin one week in advance of this event, with the entire Marine Unit working the area of the Boat Show once it begins. The United States Coast Guard has offered to assist with patrols this year.

### **V. Presentation – Sanitation Vessel**

Mr. Cuba explained that this presentation item would review the waterway cleanup efforts by the Parks and Recreation Department. He introduced Enrique Sanchez, Deputy Director of Parks and Recreation.

Mr. Sanchez showed a PowerPoint presentation, stating that when he began working with the City roughly one year ago, two employees were typically assigned to clean the City's canals using pontoon boats. This meant instead of the desired four-week cycle, cleaning the canals could take six to eight weeks. He recalled that issues with the previous vessel included lack of suitability for the marine environment, as well as maintenance issues.

As a result, the Marine Division, Marine Police Unit, Fleet Management, and Parks and Recreation worked together to develop an RFP. One difficulty was that there is no single type of vessel used for waterway maintenance. The City was seeking a vessel that could navigate narrow canals, load and unload debris, and be piloted by one

person if necessary. The selection committee's choice was approved by the City Commission at the end of September.

Mr. Sanchez reviewed the selected vessel, which includes a 48 in. wide conveyor with arms that can help grasp material, as well as a water cannon that can help dislodge debris. Because the cockpit is located on the side rather than on top, the vessel will be able to pass beneath most bridges. He showed a brief video of a similar vessel in action.

Mr. Sanchez continued that the manufacturer must provide 40 hours of training for the vessel, as well as demonstration that it can operate as needed. While only one operator is required, he advised that the City is likely to use two operators for safety. The operator is not required to be a licensed captain. The vessel will be maintained through Fleet Management, although day-to-day maintenance will be done by a City Staff member according to schedule. The vessel has a one-year warranty, with a two- to three-year warranty on the engine and hydraulic system. It will remain in the water and can be stored at three locations throughout the City.

At present, Mr. Sanchez estimated that the City manually picks up roughly 700 lbs. of trash each day. The new sanitation vessel is expected to increase this amount to 2000. On heavier days, it may offload onto another vessel or load debris into a detachable bucket. The City will begin using this vessel in May or June 2016.

Mr. Sanchez advised that the City finds a great deal of debris in the Intracoastal Waterway and in the finger isles as well as on the Middle River. The ultimate goal of the new vessel is to make debris pickup faster, on a two- to three-week cycle rather than once each month. The old pontoon vessels will continue to be used for cleanup in narrower areas. The City has received a Florida Inland Navigational District (FIND) grant to purchase a similar but smaller vessel, which is estimated to cost \$40,000.

Mr. Sanchez confirmed that it took approximately two months to arrive at the scope of the sanitation vessel RFP, as the City did not want to favor any specific technology. Vice Chair Herhold stated that while the City should be complimented on securing the vessel, they should also invest in dredging to remove debris, particularly palm fronds and other organic material that falls from trees. Mr. Sanchez estimated that there have been 60 resident complaints related to debris in the water this year. Most complaints are made using the City's 24-hour customer service line at 954-828-8000.

## **VI. Reports**

Mr. Cuba advised that there has been no City Commission activity with regard to dock waivers or other marine-related requests. Mr. Luscomb reported that the City was awarded four FIND grants, two of which were related to dredging, one for design and creation of a lagoon at Coontie Hatchee Park, and one for the smaller sanitation vessel to which Mr. Sanchez had referred.

Chair Harrison reported that he, Mr. Cuba, and Mr. Luscomb met with the City's Engineering Department after the September Board meeting to discuss plans for dredging. The presentation on dredging shown to the Board last month will be shown to the City at the October 20 City Commission meeting. The discussion included how costs might be affected by dredging to one additional foot of depth.

Chair Harrison explained that paying for the dredging project appeared to be the greatest priority, as dredging will no longer be paid for through the City's General Fund. Funding must come from either a special taxing district or an assessment on waterfront homes. He noted that when dredging was paid for through the General Fund, the City Commission ultimately approved or disapproved this funding; however, a special taxing district could be established in perpetuity so a subsequent City Commission could not take this funding source away. He recalled, however, that most of the residents who had addressed this issue at the September meeting were opposed to a special taxing district or an assessment.

He continued that another point of discussion was the depth to which dredging would reach. The cost of dredging one additional foot would more than double the overall cost. Chair Harrison advised that surveys of canals do not show a consistent depth either within the same canal or from one canal to the next. Charges are determined by the amount of material removed.

The Chair strongly encouraged the Board members to attend the upcoming City Commission meeting to emphasize the importance of dredging the City's waterways. He pointed out that it would be unfair to have residents on certain canals pay into the special assessment, as some canals are already at or below a 5 ft. depth and therefore do not require dredging.

Vice Chair Herhold asserted that residents enjoy recreation on the City's waterways in a similar manner to its parks, and that a relatively small amount of money could fund a comprehensive, ongoing dredging program. In addition, several different factors contribute to shallow water in canals, which are not the responsibility of individual property owners. For this reason, he advocated a tax or assessment affecting more than just waterfront homeowners.

Chair Harrison noted that while the Board may have verbal support for their position on dredging, he was less certain of political support. He emphasized the importance of dredging to the City, and urged the Board members to reach out to their respective City Commissioners on this issue. He pointed out that the City Manager, and not the City Commission, first raised the idea of an assessment to fund dredging. It was estimated that there are 45,000 boats registered in Broward County.

Mr. Cuba stated that on the October 6 City Commission Agenda, the Commission may discuss the draft RFP for the proposed Las Olas Marina reconstruction. If this item

appears on the Agenda, he advised that he would notify the Board members so they may plan to attend the meeting if they wish.

Chair Harrison requested a copy of the Florida Boating Council's minutes by the next Board meeting. Mr. Cuba replied that he would try to obtain these, as well as the minutes of the Broward County Marine Advisory Committee. Chair Harrison explained that these minutes would help the members keep abreast of issues discussed by other marine advisory entities.

## **VII. Old / New Business**

Mr. Guadabassi commented that due to the number of boating accidents in recent months, State Senator Maria Sachs has proposed new legislation that would have a DUI violation on the water also affect an individual's driver's license. Vice Chair Herhold observed that other possible legislation related to slow speeds at night and age regulations after dark may also be proposed to address recent accidents.

Chair Harrison encouraged the Board members to contact and advise their State and County representatives on these issues as well as their City Commissioners. He noted that it may be productive at times to submit communications to the Broward County Marine Advisory Committee as well as to the City Commission. Mr. Berry provided a brief overview of business covered by that Committee earlier in the day, including the procurement of Police boat engines through a FIND grant, other grant programs such as the Broward Boating Improvement Program (BBIP), the possibility of building a mooring field in Hollywood, and dockage along Birch State Park.

It was also noted that there is an increase in the number of teenagers registered in safe boating classes provided by the Power Squad. Mr. Berry added that cities may apply for Marine Law Enforcement Grants (MLEG) to provide a law enforcement presence on the water during nontraditional hours. He concluded that FIND will hold a meeting at Pier 66 on Friday, October 16, 2015. Vice Chair Herhold advised that the Fire Department will seek City Commission approval for the purchase of a fire boat at the October 6 meeting.

## **VIII. Adjournment**

There being no further business to come before the Board at this time, the meeting was adjourned at 7:11 p.m.

Any written public comments made 48 hours prior to the meeting regarding items discussed during the proceedings have been attached hereto.